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proper depository, the Library of the Royal Irish Academy, this truly inestimable work, which in the words of Mr. O'Reilly, "is far above all our other Annals in point of value;" and as I have had the good fortune to purchase this work at my own risk, and might, by letting it pass out of the country, have been a great pecuniary gainer, I trust it will not be deemed presumption in me to indulge the hope, that the resignation of it will be received as a memorial of my attachment to the ancient literature of my country, and of my zeal for the interests of the learned body to which I feel it so great an honour to belong.

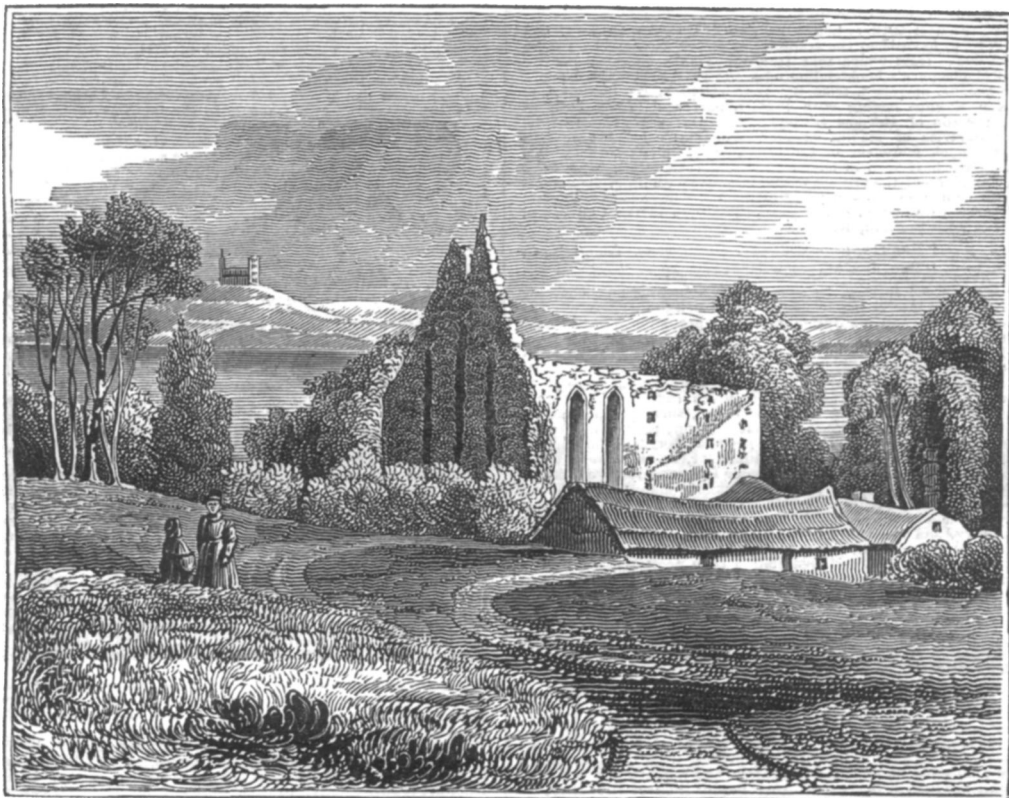
March 5. 1831.

GEORGE PETRIE.

THE FIRST CAMEL EVER SEEN IN IRELAND.—It would appear from the following, notice in the annals of the Four

Masters, not hitherto translated, that the first camel, or rather dromedary, ever seen, in Ireland, was sent over by King Edward IV. in 1472: viz.—"A.D. 1472, a wonderful animal was sent to Ireland from the king of England; it resembled a mare, having a yellow colour; the hoofs of a cow—a long neck, thick head, a large tail—ugly, scarce of hair. She had a peculiar saddle of her own; wheat and salt were her usual food; she used to carry the largest sled suspended from her tail:—She used to kneel going under any door, (gate) be it ever so high, and for her rider to mount."

J. O'D.



A. Nicholl, Esq.

The Abbey of Inch, County of Down.

Branson and Wright.

THE ABBEY OF INCH, COUNTY OF DOWN.

The Abbey of Inch, or Inniscourcey, was erected by the renowned John de Courcey, for monks of the Cistercian order, supplied from the Abbey of Furnes in Lancashire, and dedicated to the blessed Virgin, on the 3d of June, A.D., 1180.

Though at present, a very delapidated ruin, enough remains to show that it was originally an abbey of great importance, and architectural beauty. It was in the usual form of a cross, and had a lofty belfry on the south side. Of the latter there are at present no remains, except of the arch on which it stood, which appears to have been of very elegant construction; and of the church, itself, there is little to be seen except the east end, or chancel, which has three noble lancet windows, upwards of twenty feet in height, in its east wall; and two windows of similar form, and nearly equal grandeur, in each of the side walls. On the south side of the altar, are the remains of the seats for the administering priest and his assistants. Owing to the accumulation of weeds and rubbish, there are no sepulchral monuments to be seen within the ruins.

The circumstances connected with the foundation of this monastery are characteristic of the spirit of the age. Sir John de Courcey, having in his struggles for conquest with the native princes in this district, found it necessary to demolish a Benedictine abbey, called Erynagh or Carrig, which, from the strength of its position, had been con-

verted into a garrison, and did him much mischief, he founded this Abbey of Inch in atonement for his sacrilege, and endowed it with all the lands of the extinguished house. It is not improbable that the hardy adventurer was influenced in no small degree to perform this act of atonement, by a reputed prophecy of a St. Evodius, the first abbot of Erynagh, who on the day of his decease gave directions that his body should be interred in the Island of Inis, saying that his own abbey would in aftertimes be destroyed, but that one should be built on that Island.

The error which Harris, the Historian of the County of Down, and Archdall, fell into, in supposing De Courcey's abbey to have been the first founded on this island or peninsula, as well as that its present name has been derived from that foundation, has been already corrected in a preceding number of this Journal, by our worthy contributor, Mr. O'Donovan, the most able and judicious Irish scholar and topographer, which Ireland has produced for the last century. In his notes to the foundation charter of Newry, (No. 13, p. 104,) he shows that the original name of this island now corruptly called *Inniscourcey*, was *Inniscumhscaigh*, pronounced *Inniscooscry*, and that an Abbey had existed on the island from a very remote time. "Tighernach," Mr. O'Donovan observes, "Abbot of Cloumacnoise, who died in 1088, records, that in the year 1002, *Sitric, King of the Danes, arrived with a fleet in Uladh (Down) and plundered KILCLIEF and INISCOOSCRY*. The annals of the Four Masters and Keating, in the reign of Brian Boru, concur in recording